

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /057 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 189

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO CHARGE'S MAY 22 SPEECH ON HUMAN
RIGHTS

REF: MANILA 7799

1. MAY 23 BULLETIN TODAY FRONT-PAGED CHARGE'S MAY 22 SPEECH
(REFTEL) TO AMERICAN LEGION. BULLETIN CARRIED REPORT ON SPEECH
UNDER HEADLINE "OUTLINE US HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMS." BULLETIN
LEAD WAS THAT US WOULD USE ECONOMIC AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE
TO FOSTER BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS. STORY STRESSED US WILINGNESS
"TO MOVE IN CONCERT WITH THE PHILIPPINES AND WITH OTHER NATIONS
IN THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AT HOME AND ABROAD."

2. MAY 24 DAILY EXPRESS CARRIES UPI ACCOUNT
(WE UNDERSTAND REUTER ACCOUNT SIMILAR) TO SPEECH UNDER HEADLINE
"CARTER PROPOSES JOINT HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM." IT NOTES CHARGE'S
REMARKS CAME JUST TEN DAYS AFTER MRS. HERRERA WAS RELEASED FROM
DETENTION BY ORDER OF PRESIDENT MARCOS AND THAT MRS HERRERA
INTERVIEWED BY EMBASSY REPS GIVEN ACCESS TO HER BY MARCOS. EXPRESS
ACCOUNT EMPHASIZES CHARGE'S POINT THAT HUMAN RIGHTS
"UNQUESTIONABLY A MAJOR FACTOR IN AMERICAN POLICY" AND
THAT IF ANY NATION, NO MATTER ITS POLITICAL SYSTEM,
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DEPRIVES PEOPLE OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS THIS WILL SHAPE
AMERICAN ATTITUDE TOWARD THAT NATION'S GOVERNMENT.
EXPRESS ALSO HIGHLIGHTS CHARGE'S REMARKS THAT "WE CAN
LIVE WITH DIVERSITY IN GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM, BUT WE CANNOT
LOOK AWAY WHEN A GOVERNMENT TORTURES PEOPLE OR JAILS
THEM FOR THEIR BELIEFS OR DENIES MINORITIES FAIR TREATMENT
OR THE RIGHT TO IMMIGRATE."

3. MAY 23 TIMES JOURNAL CARRIES BY-LINED ACCOUNT BY OLAF GIRON UNDER HEADLINE "US SEEKING CONSULTATIONS WITH RP ON HUMAN RIGHTS." LENGTHY ARTICLE CITES MAJOR POINTS OF CHARGE'S SPEECH, AS WELL AS HIS QUOTATIONS FROM SECRETARY'S GEORGIA LAW SCHOOL SPEECH. LIKE EXPRESS, TIMES JOURNAL EMPHASIZES CHARGE'S COMMENT, "WE CAN LIVE WITH DIVERSE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEMS, BUT CANNOT BE INDIFFERENT TO TORTURE, JAILING OF INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR BELIEFS, ETC.

4. SO FAR THERE NO EDITORIAL COMMENT ON SPEECH. VALENCIA, HOWEVER, IN MAY 24 DAILY EXPRESS NOTES WASPISLY: "US SEEKING CONSULTATIONS WITH RP ON HUMAN RIGHTS" HEADLINE. IN OTHER WORDS, SHOOT FIRST, THEN ASK QUESTIONS. AFTER CONDEMNING THE PHILIPPINES AS A COUNTRY THAT DOES NOT RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS THEY'RE WILLING TO TALK AND PERHAPS CHANGE THEIR MIND. VALENCIA THEN REMARKS ON HERRERA CASE, BUT ASKS ABOUT USE OF DOGS " AGAINST HELPLESS FILIPINOS TRYING TO EKE OUT AN EXISTENCE BY DARING TO PICK UP USELESS SHRAPNEL AT CLARK AIR BASE. IS THE USE OF DOGS ON FILIPINOS LESS CRUEL THAN DETAINING FILIPINOS WHO ARE SUSPECTED OF PLOTTING AGAINST THE REPUBLIC? IN AMERICAN EYES ARE THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ACTIVISTS MORE SACRED THAN THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF SCAVENGERS?"

5. COMMENT: GUIDED PRESS' REPORTAGE ON SPEECH RELATIVELY COMPREHENSIVE. AS ANTICIPATED, FOCUS ON MUTUAL GOP-US DESIRE TO WORK TOGETHER IN HUMAN RIGHTS AREAS IS CLEARLY SELF-SERVING, BUT HOPEFULLY SUGGESTS GOP WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN EFFORT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNFORTUNATELY DOG ATTACK AT CLARK IS BEING USED BY VALENCIA TO SUGGEST THAT FOR USG HUMAN RIGHTS A ONE-WAY STREET. WE KNOW PRESIDENT MARCOS IS EXERCISED BY CLARK INCIDENT, BUT VALENCIA'S TWISTED INTERPRETATION OF INCIDENT APPEARS PERSONAL. WE WILL CONTINUE MONITOR MEDIA FOR ADDITIONAL REACTION. STULL

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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